

1 **CALL TO ORDER**

2 First Selectwoman Lisa Heavner called the regular meeting of the Open Space Committee to order at
3 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2016. The meeting was held in the main meeting room of the
4 Simsbury Town Offices located at 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT. In attendance were the
5 following committee members: Helen Peterson, Donald Rieger, and David Ryan. Staff included Gerard
6 Toner, Director of Culture, Parks and Recreation. Also present were Dave Chase and Judy and John
7 Schaefer.

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9 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

10 All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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12 **PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

13 Dave Chase of 39 Woodhaven Blvd. read an email letter from Susan Masino of 4 Madison Lane
14 regarding stewardship of forests

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16 **REVIEW/ADOPT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2016**

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18 Ms. Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes with the word “town” added before the word
19 “agricultural” in line 30. Mr. Rieger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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22 **FOREST MANAGEMENT – ERIC HANSEN**

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24 Eric Hansen, a partner with Ferrucci and Walicki LLC of Middlefield. He holds a degree in Forest
25 Management. Mr. Hansen has worked for five years with Foresters for the Birds and Audubon which
26 focuses on forests and bird habitat. Mr. Hansen discussed forest management in general with
27 Committee and management of Onion Mountain Park.

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29 Mr. Hansen discussed how inventoried current natural resources in the areas of Onion Mountain,
30 Belden Forest, Ethel Walker and Stratton. He made maps and made recommendations to meet the
31 goals that were reviewed by Conservation including sound sustainable stewardship (which includes
32 invasive management), recreation and other areas outlined in his report. His focus was to evaluate and
33 support the health of the trees and augment size, age and diversity of the forest.

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35 Members asked about species and Mr. Hansen noted that he recorded the species he observed. He
36 also accessed Connecticut’s Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDDB) for additional information.

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38 Mr. Hansen confirmed that the primary goals of his efforts were not to “make money” for the Town or
39 himself. In fact, Mr. Hansen does not get paid based on trees cut. His primary interest, as contracted
40 with the Town, is to best preserve the health of the forest, including diversity of species, habitat,
41 invasive management and the other goals approved by the Conservation Commission. As the forester
42 on the project, his role is making sure the logger follows the plan in the most responsible manner for
43 the forest. Before any work is done, Mr. Hansen notifies neighbors and offers to do walks with
44 residents to explain the plan and answer questions or concerns.

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46 Ms. Peterson asked who Mr. Hansen would recommend for additional education for the Committee.
47 Mr. Hansen recommended Professor Tom Worthley at the University of Connecticut or Larry Russo who
48 is a State employed forester. Mr. Hansen indicated he would email Gerry Toner with contact
49 information.

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52 **TRAIL CONNECTION TO ONION MOUNTAIN PARK**

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54 Gerry Toner indicated that trail clean- up was underway and that Canton was working on its trails that
55 will eventually connect with Simsbury's.

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57 **ADJOURN:**

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59 Mr. Rieger made a motion to adjourn at 6:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Peterson. The
60 motion passed unanimously.

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62 Respectfully submitted,

63 Lisa L. Heavner